

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 02-06

held

Friday, September 20, 2002, 2:00 p.m., H-769

Present:	N. Esmail (Chair)	J. Jans	O.A. Pekau
	M.O. Ahmad	F. Khendek	N. Pomerleau
	R. Bhat	K. Khorasani	M.D. Pugh
	T.D. Bui	M. Kokinos	L. Quesnel
	M.Y. Chen	R. Jayakumar	T. Radhakrishnan
	R. DiCesare	W.E. Lynch	A.S. Ramamurthy
	C. Dickie-Clark	M.K. Mehmet Ali	N. Shiri-Varnaamkhaasti
	T. Fancott	O. Moselhi	M.R. Soleymani
	A.M. Hanna	J. Opatrny	G. Vatistas
	L. Harris	C. Paradisis	S. de Souza (Recording Secretary)
Observer:	S. Ghaderpanah		
Regrets:	J. Daigle	P. Regimbald	L. Zack
	R. Ganesan		
Guests:	B. MacKenzie	R. Quinn	D. Wright
	N. Plant		

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 02-06-01 That the agenda be adopted (R. Bhat, M.O. Ahmad)

Vote: Carried unanimously

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion 02-06-02 That the Minutes of Meeting 02-05 (May 17, 2002) be adopted (T. Fancott, K. Khorasani)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Dr. Khorasani requested speaking privileges from Bruce MacKenzie, Rose Quinn and Deborah Wright, all from the Office of the Registrar.

3.

Chair's Remarks

Enrolment

The Chair remarked that the enrolment picture is good. Last year's total student headcount was slightly over 6000; this year it may be around 6800 (11% increase). The number of graduate students has risen again. The Chair regarded the number of research graduate students as a dipstick of research activity in the Faculty. Relative to last year, enrolment in the Ph.D. and Masters programs has risen by 50% and 60% respectively. The Masters-level graduating students are now enrolling in the Ph.D. program. The registration student headcount last year was 1046, this year the figure stands at 979.

There has been a 20-25% decrease in enrolment in Computer Science and Computer Engineering programs and a 15% drop in Electrical Engineering enrolment. However, Civil Engineering enjoys a 50% increase, Mechanical Engineering 15% increase, Industrial Engineering 60% increase and Software Engineering 25% increase. The Chair noted that this redistribution of students is not unwelcome because there were too many students in Computer Engineering, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

As of next fall, the Faculty will be responsible for admissions which will facilitate a better control of the situation.

Professors

It was noted that the Faculty has about 136 full-time faculty members. This will improve the quality of teaching because there will be an increase in the percentage of courses taught by full-time professors. The Faculty offers 880 sections each year. We have the capacity through teaching assignments to offer no more than 480 sections taught by full-time faculty members. Therefore about 45% of the teaching workload is done by part-time faculty members. The addition of new full-time faculty members will enhance the quality of teaching that needs to be achieved.

The Chair indicated that with respect to the demographic distribution of the Faculty, out of 136 professors 57 were appointed before 1990. 56 professors were hired during the last three years and 20 more are expected to be hired this year, thus making us one of the youngest ENCS Faculties in the country. As the majority of faculty members are new, they need to be properly mentored to advance in the academic peer committee system.

Engineering Building

The building is on schedule. There are two occupancy dates, September 2004 or January 2005.

Accreditation

Six programs are being accredited. The Accreditation visit is scheduled for November 3, 4 and 5, 2002. The Chair cautioned that we needed to have our

programs accredited with flying colours. He hoped that everyone would be around at the time of the Accreditation visit.

Budget

The Chair remarked that the budget is in good shape. Research support will continue at last year's level, possibly higher. It is important to invest in this area because it is an investment into the future of the Faculty. All professors will benefit from start-up funds through this system.

Last year, through the equipment project, \$4.5 millions were spent to equip state-of-the-art teaching labs. This year, too, an equipment program is being established in preparation to have the best equipment in the new building.

Support Staff

The level of support received from system analysts needs to be examined. The Chair remarked that the establishment of an Information Technology Service Department in the Faculty is important. There are many reasons to restructure the system analyst group. Being a professional group, they require a central council to control the network in the Faculty and provide the level of specialized expertise that is available for all in the Faculty.

The Help Desk idea has been very successful to help students both in the Faculty and the Departments. However, this needs to be widened.

The Chair also said that support services in the professional clerical area require restructuring, particularly graduate studies support. Because of an increase in student numbers, there are pressures to increase course remissions to enable full-time professors to manage undergraduate / graduate studies. However, the Chair wished to hire professionals to do the management work while the Faculty got the best teaching and research out of the faculty members, GPDs and UGPDs included.

The floor was open to questions.

One member suggested that since we have a large number of graduate students, graduate courses be offered during the day rather than late evenings. The Chair suggested that the issue be debated in the Department Councils, after which the Department Chairs should report on the general feeling of the professors to the Executive. The Chair added that he would talk to the graduate students. Another member interjected that the idea might not be feasible with 600-level courses where students included participants from industry. Evening classes alleviate scheduling pressures.

Another suggestion concerned the rewarding of professors who graduate students.

The Chair ended by saying that he was receptive to ideas.

CLOSED SESSION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OPEN SESSION

5. Other Business

Dr. Jans announced that the Concordia Shuffle, to raise funds for student scholarships, was being held on Friday, September 27, 2002, 1:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to participate.

Members were also reminded of the next Convocation at Place des Arts, November 15, 2002, 10:00 a.m.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

/sd